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Message Text

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46
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03 INR-11

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PRS-01 PA-04

USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 /221 W
---------- 125116
R 240920Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7806
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR PBOR ENRG VS CB TH
SUBJECT: THIA EMBASSY COMMUNIQUE ON GVN-GKR OIL DISPUTE IN GULF OF SIAM

1. THE THAI EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH RELEASED COMMUNIQUE WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN THE SEMI-OFFICIAL GKR PUBLICATION "LE REPUBLICAIN ON SEPTEMBER 23. IT REFERS TO A RECENT ARTICLE IN THE KHMER LANGUAGE PRESS CITING THE COMMENTS OF THE THAI FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL IN A SEPTEMBER 2 INTERVIEW WITH THE BANGKOK POST AND ACCUSING THE RTG OF INTERVENING IN THE POULO WEI ISLAND AFFAIR.

2. THE COMMUNIQUE MAKES THE FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) THE THAI SECRETARY GENERAL NEVER WENT INTO DETAIL CONCERNING THE OIL EXPLORATIONS AT POULO WEI AND NEVER SAID THAT THE RTG WOULD OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GKR ABOUT POULO WEI SINCE IT IS WELL AWARE THAT THE ISLAND IS OUTSIDE THAI SOVEREIGNTY;
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(B) THE PROPOSAL OF THE THAI SECRETARY GENERAL CENTERED

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AROUND THE FACT THAT THAILAND AND CAMBODIA SHARE A COMMON BORDER AND THEREFORE SHOULD ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT ON THE DELIMITATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. THE SECRETARY GENERAL HOWEVER MADE NO ALLUSION TO THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE POULO WEI ISLAND WHICH IS PRESENTLY AT ISSUE WITH SOUTH VIETNAM; (C) THE CONTACTS BETWEEN THE RTG AND THE GVN WITH A VIEW TO EVENTUAL NEGOTIATIONS CONCERN MATTERS BETWEEN THOSE TWO PARTIES, SUCH AS THE DELIMITATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AND THE QUESTION OF FISHING BETWEEN THAILAND AND SOUTH VIETNAM, MATTERS WHICH HAVE NO RELATIONSHIP WITH THE KHMER REPUBLIC; (D) DURING THE COURSE OF THE SEPTEMBER 19-21 VISIT OF THE GVN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN THAILAND, THE QUESTIONS RAISED FOR DISCUSSION WERE THOSE CONCERNING PARTICULARLY THAILAND AND SOUTH VIETNAM WITH NO DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE INTERESTS AND RIGHTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE VISIT WAS IN RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION MADE BY THE RTG SINCE LAST JUNE; (E) THE POSITION OF THE RTG CONCERNING THE ISSUE OF POULO WIE IS THAT THIS IS A QUESTION BETWEEN THE KHMER REPUBLIC AND SOUTH VIETNAM WHICH HAS NO RELATION TO THAILAND. HOWEVER, THAILAND HOPES THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES, BOTH OF WHICH ARE ITS FRIENDS, WILL BE ABLE TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT BY PEACEFUL MEANS.

3. COMMENT: THE KHMER WILL UNDOUBTEDLY WELCOME THE THAI DISCLAIMER ON POULO WEI, BUT MAY PREFER TO POSTPONE ACCEPTANCE OF THE THAI OFFER OF NEGOTIATIONS TO A LESS HECTIC PERIOD. WHAT MAY CAUSE SOME DISQUIET IS POINT (C) -- KHMER WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND HOW ANY DISCUSSION OF THE CONTINENTIAL SHELF BETWEEN THAILAND AND SOUTH VIETNAM COULD FAIL TO CONCERN CAMBODIA.
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